

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/407,446

Applicant(s)

TERASHIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Tia A Carter

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-73 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 34,35,39,40,42,43,46,47,52-55,58,60,67 and 69 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 September 1999 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5-6,8-12,17-23 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings in this application filed on 9/29/99 are objected to by the Draftsperson as informal. Any drawing corrections requested, but not made in the prior application should be repeated in this application if such changes are still desired. If the drawings were changed and approved during the prosecution of the prior application, a petition may be filed under 37 CFR 1.182 requesting the transfer of such drawings, provided the parent application has been abandoned. However, a copy of the drawings as originally filed must be included in the 37 CFR 1.60 application papers to indicate the original content.

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-18 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(a) for failing to particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his/her invention.

Claim 34, "thereby causes said scanner to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use, so that said reading element reads a sheet" should read --_thereby causes said paper to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use, so that said reading element reads a sheet.

Claim 39, "thereby causes said scanner to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use, so that said reading element reads a sheet" should read --_thereby causes said paper to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use, so that said reading element reads a sheet.

Art Unit: 2626

Claim 42, "thereby causes said scanner to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use, so that said reading element reads a sheet" should read --_thereby causes said paper to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use, so that said reading element reads a sheet.

Claim 46, "thereby causes said scanner to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use, so that said reading element reads a sheet" should read --_thereby causes said paper to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use, so that said reading element reads a sheet.

Claim 60, "thereby causes said scanner to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use, so that said reading element reads a sheet" should read --_thereby causes said paper to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use, so that said reading element reads a sheet.

Claim 69, "thereby causes said scanner to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use, so that said reading element reads a sheet" should read --_thereby causes said paper to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use, so that said reading element reads a sheet.

2. Claims 35, 40, 43, 47, 58, and 67 are objected to because of the following informalities: The following phrase has been quoted twice "said surface of said scanner" and Examiner interpreted this additional phrase as a mistake, however, if the phrase is proper clarification is needed in the claims indicated above.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 34- 36, 38-58, 60-67, and 69-73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ara et al. (US. 5889597).

Regarding claim 34, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus (see fig. 1), comprising:

an image forming apparatus (fig. 1, col. 3, lines 63-64); and

a scanner which is removably mounted on said an image forming apparatus (Figs. 1, col. 3, lines 62-67; fig. 2, col. 4, lines 55-56) and includes a reading element (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 16-17), a motor (figs. 1-2, col. 7, lines 15-18), and a

Art Unit: 2626

roller (transport roller 110: fig. 3, col. 5, line 19) driven by said motor (Fig. 3, col. 5, lines 17-18),

wherein said motor (col.7, lines 15-18) drives said roller (fig.3, col. 5, lines 17-22) and thereby transports a sheet in a state with said scanner mounted on said an image forming apparatus (figs. 2-3, col. 4, lines 66-67 and col. 5, lines 1-4 and lines 16-27), so that said reading element reads the sheet (figs. 2-3, col. 5, lines 28-32), and said motor drives said roller (col. 7, lines 15-18) and thereby causes said scanner to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 35-38), lines , so that said reading element reads a sheet (fig. 2, col. 7, lines 19-25).

Regarding claim 35, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus according to claim 34, wherein a surface of said scanner on which said reading element is provided faces toward said an image forming apparatus in a case where said scanner is mounted on said an image forming apparatus (see fig. 2, col. 4, lines 55-56) so that a sheet transporting path is defined by a surface of said an image forming apparatus which faces to said surface of said scanner (fig. 2, col. 4, lines 56-62), and said surface of said scanner.

Regarding claim 36, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus (see fig. 1) according to claim 34, wherein said an image forming apparatus is a printer (printer 1: fig. 1, col. 4, lines 1-3).

Regarding claim 38, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus according to claim 34, wherein a projecting member is provided in a manner projecting at a side of said surface for protecting said roller in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use (see figs. 1-5: the rollers and motor are disclosed in casings-2).

Regarding claim 39, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus (see fig. 1), comprising:
an image forming apparatus (fig. 1, col. 3, lines 63-64); and
a scanner which is removably mounted on said an image forming apparatus (Figs. 1, col. 3, lines 62-67; fig. 2, col. 4, lines 55-56) and includes a reading element (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 16-17) and
motor (figs. 1-2, col. 7, lines 15-18),

wherein, said motor causes a sheet to be transported in a case where said scanner is mounted on said an image forming apparatus (figs. 2-3, col. 4, lines 66-67 and col. 5, lines 1-4), so that said reading element reads the sheet (figs. 2-3, col. 5, lines 28-32), said motor (col. 7, lines 15-18) causes said scanner to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 35-38), so that said reading element reads the sheet (fig. 2, col. 7, lines 19-25).

Regarding claim 40, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus according to claim 39,

Art Unit: 2626

wherein a surface of said scanner on which said reading element is provided faces to said an image forming apparatus in a case where said scanner is mounted on said an image forming apparatus (fig. 2, col. 4, lines 56-60), so that a sheet transporting path is defined by a surface of said an image forming apparatus which faces to said surface of said scanner (fig. 2, col. 4, lines 56-62), and said surface of said scanner.

Regarding claim 41, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said an image forming apparatus is a printer (figs. 1-2, 6, col. 3, lines 62-67).

Regarding claim 42, Ara et al. disclose a scanner which is capable of being removably mounted on an image forming apparatus (Figs. 1, col. 3, lines 62-67; fig. 2, col. 4, lines 55-56), said scanner comprising:

reading element (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 16-17);

motor (figs. 1-2, col. 7, lines 15-18); and

roller (transport roller 110: fig. 3, col. 5, line 19) driven by said motor (fig. 3, col. 5, lines 17-22),

wherein said motor (figs. 1-2, col. 7, lines 15-18) drives said roller (fig. 3, col. 5, lines 17-22), and thereby transports a sheet in a case where said scanner is mounted on said an image forming apparatus (figs. 2-3, col. 4, lines 66-67 and col. 5, lines 1-4), so that said reading element reads the sheet (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 16-17), and said motor drives said roller (col. 7, lines 15-18) and thereby causes

Art Unit: 2626

said scanner to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 35-38), so that said reading element reads a sheet (fig. 2, col. 7, lines 19-25).

Regarding claim 43, Ara et al. disclose A scanner according to claim 42, wherein a surface of said scanner on which said reading element is provided faces to said an image forming apparatus in a case where said scanner is mounted on said an image forming apparatus (see fig. 2, col. 4, lines 55-60), so that a sheet transporting path is defined by a surface of said an image forming apparatus which faces toward said surface of said scanner (fig. 2, col. 4, lines 56-62), and said surface of said scanner.

Regarding claim 44, Ara et al. disclose a scanner according to claim 43, wherein said scanner can be attached to and detached from said an image forming apparatus (figs. 1-2, col. 7, lines 52-55), said an image forming apparatus being a printer (figs. 1-2, col. 3, lines 62-67).

Regarding claim 45, Ara et al. disclose a scanner according to claim 43, wherein a projecting member is provided in a manner projecting at a side of said surface for protecting said roller in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use (see figs. 1-3: the rollers and motor are disclosed in casings-2).

Regarding claim 46, Ara et al. disclose a scanner which is capable of being removably mounted on an image forming apparatus (fig. 1, col. 3, lines 62-67; fig. 2, col. 4, lines 55-56), said scanner comprising:

reading element (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 16-17); and

a motor (figs. 1-2, col. 7, lines 15-18),

wherein said motor causes a sheet to be transported in a case where said scanner is mounted on said an image forming apparatus (figs. 2-3, col. 4, lines 66-67 and col. 5, lines 1-4), so that said reading element reads the sheet (figs. 2-3, col. 5, lines 28-32), and said motor causes said scanner to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 35-38), so that said reading element reads a sheet (fig. 2, col. 7, lines 19-25).

Regarding claim 47, Ara et al. disclose a scanner according to claim 46, wherein a surface of said scanner on which said reading element is provided faces to said an image forming apparatus in a case where said scanner is mounted on said an image forming apparatus (see fig. 2, col. 4, lines 55-60), so that a sheet transporting path is defined by a surface of said an image forming apparatus which faces to said surface of said scanner (fig. 2, col. 4, lines 56-62), and said surface of said scanner.

Art Unit: 2626

Regarding claim 48, Ara et al. disclose a scanner according to claim 46, wherein said scanner can be attached to and detached from said an image forming apparatus (figs. 1-2, col. 7, lines 52-55), said an image forming apparatus being a printer (figs. 1-2, col. 3, lines 62-67).

Regarding claim 49, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus (see fig. 1) comprising:

An image forming apparatus (printer 1) including a sheet accommodating part accommodating a plurality of sheets (figs. 1-2, 4, col. 4, lines 7-12); and
a scanner apparatus including a reading element (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 16-17) and a roller (transport roller 110: fig. 3, col. 5, line 19), being removably mounted on said an image forming apparatus unit (fig. 1, col. 3, lines 62-67; fig. 2, col. 4, lines 55-56), reading by said reading element a sheet which is delivered from said sheet accommodating part by said roller in a case where said scanner is mounted on said an image forming apparatus (fig. 2, col. 5, lines 16-60), and reading by said reading element (fig. 2, col. 7, lines 19-25) said sheet while said roller is rotated in contact with a surface of said sheet which is read by said reading element (see figs. 1-2, 4) in a case where said scanner is detached from said an image forming apparatus (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 35-38).

Regarding claim 50, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said roller of said scanner apparatus and a sheet reading surface of said reading element are provided at a same side of said scanner apparatus (fig. 3, col. 5, lines 18-27), and a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said roller

Art Unit: 2626

and said sheet reading surface of said reading element (reading scanner 114) are provided constitutes a part of a sheet guide (paper guide 113) guiding said sheet delivered from said sheet accommodating part (see figs. 1-2, 4) in a case where said scanner is mounted on said an image forming apparatus (fig. 2, col. 5, lines 16-60).

Regarding claim 51, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said roller of said scanner apparatus is a pick roller (pinch 112), and said apparatus has a sheet separating member (paper guide 113) faced to said pick roller (pinch roller 112) of said scanner apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said an image forming apparatus (fig. 3, col. 5, lines 28-38).

Regarding claim 52, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus (see fig. 1), comprising:
An unit including a motor (figs. 1-2, col. 7, lines 15-18), a roller (transport roller 110) driven by said motor (fig. 3, col. 5, lines 17-27) and a processing unit performing processing for a sheet (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 16-17); and
an image forming apparatus on which said unit is removably mounted (fig. 1, col. 3, lines 62-67; fig. 2, col. 4, lines 55-56)
wherein said motor (col. 7, lines 15-18) drives said roller and thereby transport said sheet in a case where said unit is mounted on said image forming apparatus (fig. 3, col. 4, lines 66-67; col. 5, lines 1-7), so that said processing unit performs processing for a sheet (fig. 3, col. 5, lines 16-38), and said motor drives said

Art Unit: 2626

roller and thereby causes said unit to travel in a case where said unit is detached from said image forming apparatus for use (fig. 1, col. 5, lines 8-15), so that said processing unit performs processing for a sheet (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 16-19).

Regarding claim 53, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus (see fig. 1), comprising:

a first unit (scanner 8) including a motor (col. 7, lines 15-18) and a processing unit performing processing for a sheet (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 16-17); and

a second unit on which said first unit is removably mounted (Figs. 1-2, col. 3, lines 62-67).

wherein said motor (col. 7, lines 15-18) causes the sheet to be transported in a case where said first unit is mounted on said second unit (fig. 3, col. 4, lines 66-67; col. 5, lines 1-7), so that said processing unit performs processing for a sheet (fig. 3, col. 5, lines 16-38),

and

said motor (col. 7, lines 15-18) causes said first unit to travel in a case where said first unit is detached from said an image forming apparatus for use (fig. 1, col. 5, lines 8-15), so that said processing unit performs processing for a sheet (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 16-19).

Regarding claim 54, Ara et al. disclose a first unit which is capable of being removably mounted on a second unit (Figs. 1, col. 3, lines 62-67; fig. 2, col. 4, lines 55-56), said first unit comprising:

processing unit performing processing for a sheet (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 16-17);

a motor (figs. 1-2, col. 7, lines 15-18); and

a roller (transport roller 110), wherein said motor drives said roller and thereby transport the sheet in a case where said first unit is mounted on said second unit (figs. 2-3, col. 4, lines 66-67 and col. 5, lines 1-4), so that said processing unit performs processing for a sheet (figs. 2-3, col. 5, lines 28-32), and said motor (col. 7, lines 15-18) drives said roller and thereby causes said first unit to travel in a case where said first unit is detached from said second unit for use (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 35-38), so that said processing unit performs processing for a sheet (fig. 2, col. 7, lines 19-25).

Regarding claim 55, Ara et al. disclose a first unit which is capable of being removably mounted on a second unit (Figs. 1, col. 3, lines 62-67; fig. 2, col. 4, lines 55-56), said first unit comprising:

processing unit performing processing for a sheet (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 16-17);

and

a motor (figs. 1-2, col. 7, lines 15-18),

wherein said motor causes said sheet to be transported in a case where said first unit is mounted on said second unit (figs. 2-3, col. 4, lines 66-67 and col. 5, lines 1-4), so that said processing unit performs processing for a sheet (figs. 2-3,

Art Unit: 2626

col. 5, lines 28-32), and said motor (col. 7, lines 15-18) causes said first unit to travel in a case where said first unit is detached from said second unit for use (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 35-38), so that said processing unit performs processing for a sheet (fig. 2, col. 7, lines 19-25).

Regarding claim 56, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus (see fig. 1) comprising: a base unit (printer 1) including a sheet accommodating part accommodating a plurality of sheets (figs. 1-2, 4, col. 4, lines 7-12); and a scanner apparatus including a reading element (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 16-17) and a roller (transport roller 110: fig. 3, col. 5, line 19), being removably mounted on said an image forming apparatus unit (fig. 1, col. 3, lines 62-67; fig. 2, col. 4, lines 55-56), reading by said reading element a sheet which is delivered from said sheet accommodating part by said roller in a case where said scanner is mounted on said base unit (fig. 2, col. 5, lines 16-60), and reading by said reading element (fig. 2, col. 7, lines 19-25) said sheet while said roller travels said scanner in a case where said scanner is detached from said base unit (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 35-38).

Regarding claim 57, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus according to claim 56, wherein the sheet accommodating part accommodates said plurality of sheets in an incline direction (figs. 1-2, 4, arrow A, col. 4, lines 7-12).

Regarding claim 58, Ara et al. disclose An apparatus according to claim 56, wherein a surface of said scanner on which said reading element is provided faces to said base in a case where said scanner is mounted (see fig. 2, col. 4, lines 55-60), on said base, so that a sheet transporting path is defined by a surface of said base which faces to said surface of said scanner (fig. 2, col. 4, lines 56-62), and said surface of said scanner.

Regarding claim 60, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus according to claim 56, wherein said scanner has a motor (figs. 1-2, col. 7, lines 15-18) and said motor drives said roller and thereby transport a sheet in a case where said scanner is mounted on said base unit (figs. 2-3, col. 4, lines 66-67 and col. 5, lines 1-4), so that said reading element reads the sheet (figs. 2-3, col. 5, lines 28-32), and said motor (figs. 1-2, col. 7, lines 15-18) drives said roller and thereby causes said scanner to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said base unit (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 35-38), so that said reading element reads a sheet (fig. 2, col. 7, lines 19-25).

Regarding claim 61, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus according to claim 56, wherein a projecting member is provided in a manner projecting at a side of said surface for protecting said roller in a case where said scanner is detached from said base unit for use (see figs. 1-5: the rollers and motor are disclosed in casings-2).

Regarding claim 62, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus according to claim 56, wherein said roller of said scanner apparatus and a sheet reading surface of said reading element are provided at a same side of said scanner apparatus (fig. 3, col. 5, lines 18-27), and a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said roller and said sheet reading surface of said reading element (reading scanner 114) are provided constitutes a part of a sheet guide (paper guide 113) guiding said sheet delivered from said sheet accommodating part (see figs. 1-2, 4) in a case where said sheet reading surface of said reading element are provided constitutes a part of a sheet guide (paper guide 113) guiding said sheet delivered from said sheet accommodating part (see figs. 1-2, 4) in a case where said scanner is mounted on said base unit (fig. 2, col. 5, lines 16-60)..

Regarding claim 63, Ara et al. disclose a scanner according to claim 56, wherein said roller of said scanner apparatus is a pick roller (pinch roller 112), and said apparatus has a sheet separating member (paper guide 113) faced to said pick roller (pinch roller 112) of said scanner apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base unit (fig. 3, col. 5, lines 28-38).

Regarding claim 64, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus to claim 56, wherein said base unit is an image forming apparatus (figs. 1-2, 6, col. 3, lines 62-67).

Regarding claim 65, Ara et al. disclose a scanner apparatus (see figs. 1-3):

Art Unit: 2626

A reading element (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 16-17) and;

A roller (transport roller 110: fig. 3, col. 5, line 19);

Wherein said scanner is removably mounted on a base unit (Figs. 1, col. 3, lines 62-67; fig. 2, col. 4, lines 55-56) including a sheet accommodating part accommodating a plurality of sheets and reads by said reading element a sheet which is delivered from said sheet accommodating part by said roller in a case where said scanner is mounted on said base unit (fig. 2, col. 5, lines 16-60), and reads by said element (fig. 2, col. 7, lines 19-25) said sheet while said roller travel said scanner in a case where said scanner is detached from said base unit (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 35-38).

Regarding claim 66, Ara et al. disclose a scanner according to claim 65, wherein the sheet accommodating part accommodates said plurality of sheets in an incline direction (figs. 1-2, 4, arrow A, col. 4, lines 7-12).

Regarding claim 67, Ara et al. disclose An apparatus according to claim 65, wherein a surface of said scanner on which said reading element (fig. 2, col. 4, lines 16-18) is provided faces to said base in a case where said scanner is mounted (see fig. 2, col. 4, lines 55-60), on said base, so that a sheet transporting path is defined by a surface of said base which faces to said surface of said scanner (fig. 2, col. 4, lines 56-62), and said surface of said scanner.

Art Unit: 2626

Regarding claim 69, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus (fig. 1) according to claim 65, wherein said scanner has a motor (figs. 1-2, col. 7, lines 15-18) and said motor drives said roller and thereby transport a sheet in a case where said scanner is mounted on said base unit (figs. 2-3, col. 4, lines 66-67 and col. 5, lines 1-4), so that said reading element reads the sheet (figs. 2-3, col. 5, lines 28-32), and said motor (figs. 1-2, col. 7, lines 15-18) drives said roller and thereby causes said scanner to travel in a case where said scanner is detached from said base unit (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 35-38), so that said reading element reads a sheet (fig. 2, col. 7, lines 19-25).

Regarding claim 70 Ara et al. disclose an apparatus according to claim 65, wherein a projecting member is provided in a manner projecting at a side of said surface for protecting said roller in a case where said scanner is detached from said base unit for use (see figs. 1-5: the rollers and motor are disclosed in casings-2).

Regarding claim 71, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus according to claim 65, wherein said roller of said scanner apparatus and a sheet reading surface of said reading element are provided at a same side of said scanner apparatus (fig. 3, col. 5, lines 18-27), and a surface of said scanner apparatus on which said roller and said sheet reading surface of said reading element (reading scanner 114) are provided constitutes a part of a sheet guide (paper guide 113) guiding said sheet delivered from said sheet accommodating part in a case where said sheet

Art Unit: 2626

reading surface of said reading element are provided constitutes a part of a sheet guide (paper guide 113) guiding said sheet delivered from said sheet accommodating part (see figs. 1-2, 4) in a case where said scanner is mounted on said base unit (fig. 2, col. 5, lines 16-60).

Regarding claim 72, Ara et al. disclose a scanner according to claim 65, wherein said roller of said scanner apparatus is a pick roller (pinch roller 112), and said apparatus has a sheet separating member (paper guide 113) faced to said pick roller (pinch roller 112) of said scanner apparatus in a case where said scanner apparatus is mounted on said base unit (fig. 3, col. 5, lines 28-38).

Regarding claim 73, Ara et al. disclose a scanner according to claim 65, wherein said base unit is an image forming apparatus (figs. 1-2, 6, col. 3, lines 62-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 37, 59 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ara et al. (US. 5889597) in view of Yamada et al. (US. 5559609).

Regarding claim 37, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus (**see** fig. 1) according to claim 34, wherein a first sheet transporting path is formed substantially vertically to allow said reading element to read said sheet in a case where said scanner is mounted on said an image forming apparatus (fig. 1, col.4, lines 8-15: **arrow A**)

Ara et al. **fails to disclose** an image forming apparatus includes a second sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically, said an image forming apparatus performing a processing for a sheet traveling along said second sheet transporting path, and said first sheet transporting path being arranged along said second sheet transporting path.

Yamada et al. (US. 5559609) **discloses** an image forming apparatus includes a second sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically, said an image forming apparatus performing a processing for a sheet traveling along said second sheet transporting path, and said first sheet transporting path being arranged along said second sheet transporting path (see figs. 2-4, col. 6, lines 1-4 and lines 29-31).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Ara et al. wherein an additional sheet transporting path was incorporated whereas Yamada et al. facsimile transceiver provides to sheet transporting paths A and B as disclosed in figures 2 and 4. This feature would

Art Unit: 2626

help to prevent paper jams and overload as indicated by Yamada et al. (col. 2, lines 59-62).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the feature of multiple sheet transporting paths of Yamada et al. with Ara et al. apparatus providing effective sheet processing.

Regarding claim 59, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus (see fig. 1) according to claim 56, wherein a first sheet transporting path is formed substantially vertically to allow said reading element to read said sheet in a case where said scanner is mounted on said base (fig. 1, col. 4, lines 8-15: arrow A),

Ara et al. **fails to disclose** said base includes a second sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically, said base performs a processing for a sheet traveling along said second sheet transporting path, and said first sheet transporting path being arranged along said second sheet transporting path.

Yamada et al. **discloses** said base includes a second sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically, said base performs a processing for a sheet traveling along said second sheet transporting path, and said first sheet transporting path being arranged along said second sheet transporting path (see figs. 2-4, col. 6, lines 1-4 and lines 29-31).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Ara et al. wherein an additional sheet transporting path

Art Unit: 2626

is incorporated whereas Yamada et al. facsimile transceiver provides two sheet transporting paths A and B as disclosed in figures 2 and 4. This feature would help to prevent paper jams and overload as indicated by Yamada et al. (col. 2, lines 59-62).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the feature of multiple sheet transporting paths of Yamada et al. with Ara et al. apparatus providing effective sheet processing.

Regarding claim 68, Ara et al. disclose an apparatus (**see** fig. 1) according to claim 65, wherein a first sheet transporting path is formed substantially vertically to allow said reading element to read said sheet in a case where said scanner is mounted on said base (fig. 1, col.4, lines 8-15: **arrow A**),

Ara et al. **fails to disclose** said base includes a second sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically, said base performs a processing for a sheet traveling along said second sheet transporting path, and said first sheet transporting path being arranged along said second sheet transporting path.

Yamada et al. (US. 5559609) **discloses** said base includes a second sheet transporting path extending substantially vertically, said base performs a processing for a sheet traveling along said second sheet transporting path, and said first sheet transporting path being arranged along said second sheet transporting path (see figs. 2-4, col. 6, lines 1-4 and lines 29-31).

Art Unit: 2626

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify Ara et al. wherein an additional sheet transporting path was incorporated whereas Yamada et al. facsimile transceiver provides to sheet transporting paths A and B as disclosed in figures 2 and 4. This feature would help to prevent paper jams and overload as indicated by Yamada et al. (col. 2, lines 59-62).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the feature of multiple sheet transporting paths of Yamada et al. with Ara et al. apparatus providing effective sheet processing.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Shimizu (US. 5663811), Nishiyama et al. (US. 5579099), Pan (US. 5182450), Obana et al. (US. 6247784), Lim et al. (US. 5532825), Dobbs et al. (US. 5767988), and Yokoyama et al. (JP 08-163288) are cited to show related art with respect to scanner and printer apparatuses with independent capabilities.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tia A Carter whose telephone number is 703 - 306-5433. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-3:30).


Art Unit: 2626

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A Williams can be reached on 703-305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-6056.

Tia A Carter
Examiner
Art Unit 2626

TAC 
December 1, 2003


KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER